

William Palmer Dole Collection

S363
1836-1861
1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, March 2014

Biographical Note:

William Palmer Dole was born in Danville, Vermont, on December 9, 1810. In 1831, he moved to Clinton, Vermillion County, Indiana, and engaged in business. For eight years, he serviced in the Senate and House of Representatives in the Indiana Legislature. Upon moving to Paris, Illinois, he again engaged in business. He was a delegate to the Republican National Convention in Chicago where Abraham Lincoln was nominated for president in 1860. He had a summer residence in Berkley Spring, West Virginia.

William married three times. His first wife was Susan Rush, daughter of Peter Rush, who had Persis J., a girl, born about 1836, and William R., born about 1838. When Susan died, William married her cousin Jane Bryson. Following Jane's death, he married Elizabeth Gordon.

Source:
Information Found within Collection

Scope and Content:

Most of the letters are to and from William's wife, Jane, from various locations.

May 14, 1861, in Washington, William wrote a three-page letter to Dr. Davis. He wrote: "I have just left Mr. Lincoln. I found him alone this evening and had a grand old fashioned talk as I frequently have & always when he has leisure. I urged your case with all the power I had. He says he has not appointed a single surgeon yet, that today he [?] appreciation from Ill [Illinois] in favor of another party that he was inclined to accommodate him & that he has sent the letter to the war department asking for information as to the Rule of Appts & said that if he has the appts to make he would like to accommodate me for my friend and said that he would not consider me troublesome if I kept him [?] of it, which I shall do. I will see him again by appt within a day or day. I hope I may succeed but don't count anything certain these matters for altho Mr. Lincoln is very kind to me & has given me nothing what I have asked for myself but so far nearly anything I have asked for my friends, having since then come[?] for friends of mine tonight & proceeded to appt Dr. Stevenson as Congressional Librarian tomorrow. You know the Dr. is not heavy metal but he has worked hard for us & is poor and can hand down books from a shelf to M.C. as well & as gracefully as any one for besides he is a

Wabash man & I am far him. You know I never forget friends. The only news I hate is Green Hunter Lot{?} & Co. I despair they are of no consequence anyway. Green has powers & is a miserable dishonest scoundrel & I am really glad he is on the disunion side as now he is ruined anyway. We have now 25,000 troops here & feel safe. We shall probably have 5 to 10,000 more as they are still coming. It is yet undetermined whether the first strike will be at Richmond or Charleston. I mean by strike there may be a brush at Harpers Ferry very soon as the traitors have some 5,000 troops there & are increasing their force all the time & protecting batteries. I think we ought to lean them out. Well Will to write me fully. I don't want him to go into the three year recruits unless it seems necessary for the defense of the country & he can't get some position better than a private. Don't understand that I am offended to his being a private or of pride. But it is that I fear his habits unless he has a responsibility that will keep his pride aroused. Now you understand me. Remember me to the boys. I hope to have a good [?] of the Egan Guards with in camp or in battle. Yours W. P. Dole"

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Collection Inventory Folder and Item Listing:

William Palmer Dole Letters

Date	
1-17-1836	First letter
5-14-1861	Last letter

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1 folder
Collection Dates:	1836-1861
Provenance:	Marion H. Gray, August 10, 1967
Access:	The Collection is Open for Research Use
Restrictions:	None.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript and Rare Books Division, Indiana State Library.
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Alternate Formats:	None.
Related Holdings:	None.
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